

Bishops. But the attempt, at least, shows that advanced Wycliffism was strong in those parts.¹

London was another focus of heresy. The citizens of the capital had applauded Aston at his trial, and had followed their favourite Mayor, John of Northampton, in his raid across the river. In 1387 Walter Patteshull, a Lollard priest who had once been a friar, raised a riot against his former associates by posting on St. Paul's door, specific charges of murder and other horrible crimes, which, he avowed, had been committed in his old convent. The rioters, who are described as 'nearly a hundred of the Lollards,' assaulted several friars with impunity, as the authorities of the city thought fit only to expostulate with them.² This insolence on the part of the heretics took place in the year when the persecuting King was fully engaged in a contest with his political enemies. His nominee, the grocer Nicolas Brembre, was beginning to feel his artificial supremacy in London extremely insecure. In ordinary times Richard took care that the Wycliffites of the capital, though staunch and numerous, should not molest their enemies or even carry on their services in public.³

The Lollardry of London was more immediately affected by political and parliamentary life than the Lollardry of the country districts. Many of the Parliamentary leaders had hostels in the city, and all came up to the capital once or twice a year on the business of the nation. In 1395 certain Lollard members of the Privy Council, finding themselves unable to influence their royal master in favour of their co-religionists, took advantage of Richard's absence in Ireland to lay their opinions before Parliament. The movers in this affair were Sir Richard Stury and Sir Lewis Clifford, Privy Councillors, Thomas Latimer the powerful Northamptonshire landlord who had helped the Wycliffites on his own estates, and Lord John Montagu, brother of the Earl of Salisbury. Montagu was a man of sincere conviction, who had removed all images from

¹ Wals., ii. 188 ; *Rot. Claw.*, 20 Ric. II. 245, m. 28 ; *Ibid.* 13 B. II. c. 1, m. 31.
² Wals., ii. 157-9. * *C. B. R.*, 15 E. II. (no. 240), m. 18.